

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MIKE TAYLOR**, on April 6, 2001 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mike Taylor, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mike Sprague, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Dale Berry (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Bart Campbell, Legislative Branch
Kyanne Kelly, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SJ 20, 4/3/2001
Executive Action: SJ 20

HEARING ON SJ 20

Sponsor: SENATOR JON ELLINGSON, SD 33, MISSOULA

Proponents: Don Judge, AFL-CIO
Sheila Hogan, Career Training Institute
Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce
Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner
Bob Francisco, Work Force Investment Board
Mike Munck, Concentrated Employment Program

Opponents: None

Informational Witness: Wendy Keating, Department of Labor

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.4}

SENATOR JON ELLINGSON, SD 33, MISSOULA, said this resolution calls for an interim study to establish a program of economic intervention and job training to assist workers, businesses and communities.

Proponents' Testimony:

Don Judge, AFL-CIO, said currently there are 2700 workers in the state of Montana who have had layoffs or announcements that their jobs will be shutting down. **EXHIBIT (bus78a01)**

Sheila Hogan, Career Training Institute, said they are experiencing a large volume of calls from panicked families who want to begin training as soon as possible. She said they are concerned about the potential loss of resources.

Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce, said that businesses are having a hard time finding qualified workers and that needs to be addressed as well.

Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner, said this is an important way to keep the need for economic development in front of the legislature.

Bob Francisco, Work Force Investment Board, said an industry layoff or shut down affects all the local businesses. He said that this resolution would be good for employers and employees.

Mike Munck, Concentrated Employment Program, read a letter from Sam Samson, Jefferson County Commission. **EXHIBIT (bus78a02)** He also said this resolution would help the legislation in the next session to be done from a base of knowledge.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Witness: **Wendy Keating, Department of Labor, Job Service Division**, said her division is responsible for the Work Force Investment Act and operates many of the dislocated workers programs.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR SAM KITZENBERG asked why the newly unemployed teachers from around the state were not on the list of dislocated workers.

SENATOR ELLINGSON said that this plan was broad enough that it could include the needs of those people as well.

SENATOR DALE MAHLUM said he was concerned about the layoffs of agricultural workers, especially with the upcoming dry season.

SENATOR ELLINGSON said that by it's nature it is a little harder to keep track of who is cutting back workers in the agricultural arena. He noted that not too many farms issue press releases about having to lay off people.

SENATOR VICKI COCCHIARELLA stated that this act should have some language that encourages the coordination of this committee with the Work Force Act Board.

Wendy Keating said she agreed.

SENATOR ED BUTCHER asked how many federal and state job training programs were currently available.

Ingrid Childress, Department of Labor, said she didn't know.

SENATOR BUTCHER said he would like that information.

SENATOR BUTCHER asked if out of this study there might be some real training rather than just employing more bureaucrats to talk about the issue.

SENATOR ELLINGSON said yes. He said this committee could identify and make an inventory and then determine how to coordinate the programs.

CHAIRMAN MIKE TAYLOR said he wanted to see what the net gain of jobs in Montana was in the last years. He said there is a lot of money and training for people. He also said that interim committees don't usually do anything, and he asked the sponsor to address that issue.

Closing by Sponsor:

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 26.1}

SENATOR JON ELLINGSON, SD 33, MISSOULA, said there is a certain amount of economic growth going on, but there are a great number of people losing their jobs at this time. Part of this study would be to coordinate with businesses to find out what they need, and look at implementing training programs to meet that need.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 20

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that **AMENDMENTS #SJ002001 TO SJ20 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that **SJ 20 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:00 A.M.

SEN. MIKE TAYLOR, Chairman

KYANNE KELLY, Secretary

MT/KK

EXHIBIT (bus78aad)